



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 1119***

LCO No. 5510



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING HAZING IN HIGH SCHOOLS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53-23a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Hazing" means any action which recklessly or intentionally  
5 endangers the health or safety of a person for the purpose of initiation,  
6 admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued  
7 membership in a student organization. The term shall include, but not  
8 be limited to:

9 (A) Requiring indecent exposure of the body;

10 (B) Requiring any activity that would subject the person to extreme  
11 mental stress, such as sleep deprivation or extended isolation from  
12 social contact;

13 (C) Confinement of the person to unreasonably small, unventilated,

14 unsanitary or unlighted areas;

15 (D) Any assault upon the person; or

16 (E) Requiring the ingestion of any substance or any other physical  
17 activity which could adversely affect the health or safety of the  
18 individual. The term shall not include an action sponsored by an  
19 institution of higher education which requires any athletic practice,  
20 conditioning, or competition or curricular activity.

21 (2) "Student organization" means a fraternity, sorority or any other  
22 organization organized or operating at an institution of higher  
23 education, or any high school-sponsored organization, activity or  
24 program.

25 (b) No student organization or member of a student organization  
26 shall engage in hazing any member or person pledged to be or  
27 otherwise seeking to become a member of the organization. The  
28 implied or express consent of the victim shall not be a defense in any  
29 action brought under this section.

30 (c) A student organization which violates subsection (b) of this  
31 section (1) shall be subject to a fine of not more than [one thousand five  
32 hundred] three thousand dollars, and (2) shall forfeit for a period of  
33 not less than one year all of the rights and privileges of being an  
34 organization organized or operating at an institution of higher  
35 education or a high school, as the case may be.

36 (d) A member of a student organization who violates subsection (b)  
37 of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than [one] two  
38 thousand dollars.

39 (e) This section shall not in any manner limit or exclude prosecution  
40 or punishment for any crime or any civil remedy.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	53-23a
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***Statement of Purpose:***

To include high school organizations in prohibitions against hazing and to increase associated monetary penalties.